

## **8. Summary- Euthanasia and criminal law**

Euthanasia is often regarded as a controversial topic that is being discussed all around the world. The legislative rules differ among the countries to various extent. The scope of this work is to offer a summary of legal regulations in euthanasia, particularly in the area of criminal law and a several examples of these regulations in Europe, USA and Australia.

In the first chapter, the term of euthanasia is defined which is necessary for the purpose of this work. The term of euthanasia passed through evolution and has changed its meaning. The term of euthanasia is the word of greek origin ( eu- good, thanatos- death), which means wittingly shortening the battle with fatal disease or in other words good death.

The second chapter characterized the basic forms of euthanasia. The basic forms of euthanasia are distinguished between active, passive, direct. indirect form of euthanasia.

The third chapter is concentrated on legislative regulations in certain states in Europe, USA and Australia. This chapter has two subchapters. In the first one, the legal situation and regulation of euthanasia in criminal law is describe. The second one is concentrated on legal regulations in the countries where euthanasia is legalized or is practiced under certain circumstances.

The fourth chapter concentrates on legal regulations of euthanasia in the Czech republic. This chapter is split in to four sections. The content of the first section are suggestions and ideas de lege ferenda. Ideas which were proposed in the past during the existence of the First republic as well as ideas from present. The next sections deal with the relation of euthanasia to international law, constitutional law, civil law. The last section concentrates on qualification of euthanasia according the Czech penal code.

Key words: euthanasia, criminal law, legal regulation of euthanasia

